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**Title:**

Statement: Emergency funding for Riverland fruit growers

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

February 27, 1976

Date.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,  
Victoria Square, Adelaide,  
South Australia 5001  
228 4811

## EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR RIVERLAND FRUIT GROWERS.

Emergency funding aid is to be made available to Riverland fruit growers by the South Australian Government.

Announcing this today, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said the State Government would pay \$425,000 to the Riverland Fruit Products Co-operative at Berri early next week (week beginning Monday, March 1).

Mr. Dunstan said the State Government would advance the Federal Government's share of the canned fruit industries loan agreement. This money had been delayed in the federal bureaucracy and the Federal Government could not give a definite time when it would be available.

"The situation of fruit growers is serious and they need immediate help", Mr. Dunstan said.

"They have been placed in a very embarrassing position because of the Federal Government's delay. The State Government felt it should act immediately to help the growers even though the South Australian share (\$400,000) was paid very quickly last year.

"The cannery was given separate \$200,000 advances in July and September of 1975.

"The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chatterton, has repeatedly asked the Federal Liberal/Country Party Government when its share would be paid but no date was ever given.

"On Friday, February 27 I spoke with the Prime Minister while he was in Adelaide and he assured me that the Federal Government intended to meet its obligations to the Riverland canneries.

"I told him the State Government would immediately make arrangements for the money to be made available from its sources because of the urgency.

"The Federal Government's delay in this matter has distressed many growers and the South Aust Govt wants to ease any hardship as quickly as possible".



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